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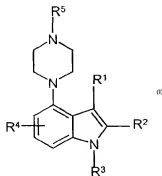
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: 4-PIPERAZINYLINDOLE DERIVATIVES WITH 5-HT₆ RECEPTOR AFFINITY

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to compounds which have generally 5-HT₆ receptor affinity and which are represented by formula (I), wherein R³ is SO₂-Ar, Ar is aryl or heteroaryl; and R¹, R², R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined herein; or individual isomers, racemic or non-racemic mixtures of isomers, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof. The invention further relates to pharmaceutical compositions containing such compounds, methods for their use as therapeutic agents, and methods of preparation thereof.

WO 02/102774 A1

- 1 -

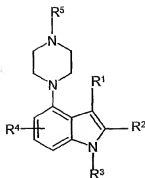
4-Piperaziny lindole derivatives with 5-HT₆ Receptor Affinity

The present invention relates to new 4-piperaziny lindole derivatives with 5-HT₆ receptor affinity, and associated pharmaceutical compositions, methods for use as therapeutic agents, and methods of preparation thereof.

The actions of the neurotransmitter 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) as a major
5 modulatory neurotransmitter in the brain, are mediated through a number of receptor families termed 5-HT₁, 5-HT₂, 5-HT₃, 5-HT₄, 5-HT₅, 5-HT₆, and 5-HT₇. Based on a high level of 5-HT₆ receptor mRNA in the brain, it has been stated that the 5-HT₆ receptor may play a role in the pathology and treatment of central nervous system disorders. In particular, 5-HT₆ receptor selective ligands have been identified as potentially useful in the
10 treatment of certain CNS disorders such as Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, anxiety, depression, manic depression, psychoses, epilepsy, obsessive compulsive disorders, migraine, Alzheimer's disease (enhancement of cognitive memory), sleep disorders, feeding disorders such as anorexia and bulimia, panic attacks, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), attention deficit disorder (ADD), withdrawal from drug abuse such as
15 cocaine, ethanol, nicotine and benzodiazepines, schizophrenia, and also disorders associated with spinal trauma and/or head injury such as hydrocephalus. Such compounds are also expected to be of use in the treatment of certain gastrointestinal (GI) disorders such as functional bowel disorder. (See for ex. B.L. Roth et al., J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther., 268, pages 1403-14120 (1994), D. R. Sibley et al., Mol. Pharmacol., 43, 320-327 (1993), A.J.
20 Sleight et al, Neurotransmission, 11, 1-5 (1995), and A. J. Sleight et al. Serotonin ID Research Alert, 1997, 2 (3), 115-8). Furthermore, the effect of 5-HT₆ antagonist and 5-HT₆ antisense oligonucleotides to reduce food intake in rats has been reported (*Br J Pharmac.* 1999 Suppl 126, page 66 and *J Psychopharmacol Suppl* A64 1997, page 255).

This invention relates to compounds of general Formula I:

- 2 -



Formula I

wherein:

R^1 is selected from hydrogen, halo, haloalkyl, and C_{1-6} -alkyl;

5 R^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, and C_{1-6} -alkylthio;

R^3 is $-SO_2-Ar$, and Ar is selected from aryl and heteroaryl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, thioalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, aminocarbonyl, carbonylamino, alkylsulfonyl, haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, and
10 sulfonylamino;

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, C_{1-6} -alkylthio, trifluoromethyl, cyano, and acyl; and

R^5 is selected from hydrogen, benzyl and C_{1-6} -alkyl;

or individual isomers, racemic or non racemic mixtures of isomers, prodrugs, or
15 pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof.

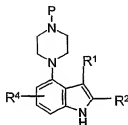
In another aspect, the invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of Formula I, or individual isomers, racemic or non-racemic mixtures of isomers, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof, in admixture with at least one suitable carrier.

20 In another aspect, this invention relates to a method of treatment of a disease in a mammal treatable by administration of compound of Formula I having a selective affinity to 5-HT₆ receptor, in particular a method of treatment in a subject having a disease state comprising Alzheimer's disease, central nervous disorders, such as for example, psychoses, schizophrenia, manic depressions, neurological disorders, Parkinson's disease,

amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Huntington's disease. Other disease states alleviated by 5-HT₆ agonists, and therefore by the compounds of Formula I, are gastrointestinal diseases comprising irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), and obesity.

In a preferred embodiment, the invention further relates to a process which
 5 comprises:

treatment of a compound of formula f

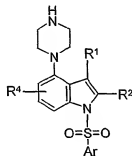


Formula f

wherein P is a protective group and R¹, R² and R⁴ are as defined herein,

10 with an arylsulfonyl halide of Formula Ar-SO₂-Hal wherein Hal is a halogen;

followed by deprotection to provide a compound of general Formula I:



Formula I

Unless otherwise stated, the following terms used in this Application, including the
 15 specification and claims, have the definitions given below. It must be noted that, as used in the specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a", "an," and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

"Alkyl" means a monovalent linear or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical, consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, having from one to twelve carbon atoms

inclusive, unless otherwise indicated. Examples of alkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, n-hexyl, octyl, dodecyl, and the like. "Alkyl" also means a cyclic or a combination of linear or branched, and cyclic saturated hydrocarbon radical consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, having from one to twelve carbon atoms inclusive, unless otherwise indicated. Examples of such alkyl radicals include but are not limited to, cyclopropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropylethyl and the like

"Lower alkyl" means a monovalent linear or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical, consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, having from one to six carbon atoms inclusive, unless otherwise indicated. Examples of lower alkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, n-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, and the like.

"Alkylene" means a divalent linear or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical, consisting solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, having from one to six carbons inclusive, unless otherwise indicated. Examples of alkylene radicals include, but are not limited to, methylene, ethylene, propylene, 2-methyl-propylene, butylene, 2-ethylbutylene, and the like.

"Alkoxy" means a radical -O-R, wherein R is a lower alkyl radical as defined herein. Examples of alkoxy radicals include, but are not limited to, methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, and the like.

"Alkylthio" or "alkylsulfanyl" means a radical -SR, wherein R is a lower alkyl radical as defined herein. Examples of alkylthio radicals include, but are not limited to, methylthio, butylthio, and the like.

"Alkylsulfinyl" means a radical -SOR, wherein R is a lower alkyl radical as defined herein. Examples of alkylsulfinyl radicals include, but are not limited to, methylsulfinyl, ethylsulfinyl, and the like.

"Alkylsulfonyl" means a radical -SO₂R, wherein R is a lower alkyl radical as defined herein. Examples of alkylsulfonyl radicals include, but are not limited to, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, and the like.

"Aryl" means a monovalent cyclic aromatic hydrocarbon radical consisting of one or more fused rings in which at least one ring is aromatic in nature, which can optionally be substituted with hydroxy, cyano, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, thioalkyl, halo, haloalkyl,

hydroxyalkyl, nitro, alkoxycarbonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, aminocarbonyl, carbonylamino, alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, and/or sulfonylamino, unless otherwise indicated. Examples of aryl radicals include, but are not limited to, phenyl, naphthyl, biphenyl, indanyl, anthraquinolyl, dichlorophenyl, bromophenyl, fluorophenyl, and the like.

"Halo" or "Halogen" means the radical fluoro, bromo, chloro, and/or iodo.

"Haloalkyl" means a lower alkyl radical as defined herein substituted in any position with one or more halogen atoms as defined herein. Examples of haloalkyl radicals include, but are not limited to, 1,2-difluoropropyl, 1,2-dichloropropyl, trifluoromethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethyl, and the like.

"Heteroaryl" means a monovalent aromatic carbocyclic radical having one or more rings incorporating one, two, three or four heteroatoms within the ring (chosen from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur) which can optionally be substituted with hydroxy, cyano, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, thioalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, nitro, alkoxycarbonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, aminocarbonyl, carbonylamino, alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, and/or sulfonylamino, unless otherwise indicated. Examples of heteroaryl radicals include, but are not limited to, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazinyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, pyranyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, benzofuryl, benzothiophenyl, benzothiopyranyl, benzimidazolyl, benzooxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzopyranyl, indazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, naphthyridinyl, and the like.

"Leaving group" means a group with the meaning conventionally associated with it in synthetic organic chemistry, i.e., an atom or group displaceable under alkylating conditions. Examples of leaving groups include, but are not limited to, halogen, alkyl- or arylsulfonyloxy, such as methanesulfonyloxy, ethanesulfonyloxy, thiomethyl, benzenesulfonyloxy, tosyloxy, and thienyloxy, dihalophosphinyloxy, optionally substituted benzyloxy, isopropyloxy, acyloxy, and the like.

"Amino-protecting group" means the protecting group that refers to those organic groups intended to protect the nitrogen atom against undesirable reactions during synthetic procedures and includes, but is not limited to, benzyl (Bn), benzyloxycarbonyl (carbobenzyloxy, CBZ), p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl (BOC), trifluoroacetyl, and the like. It is preferred to use either BOC or CBZ as the amino-protecting group because of the relative ease of removal, for example by

mild acids in the case of BOC, e.g., trifluoroacetic acid or hydrochloric acid in ethyl acetate; or by catalytic hydrogenation in the case of CBZ.

"Optional" or "optionally" means that the subsequently described event or circumstance may but need not occur, and that the description includes instances where the event or circumstance occurs and instances in which it does not. For example, "optional bond" means that the bond may or may not be present, and that the description includes single, double, or triple bonds

"Protective group" or "protecting group" means a group that selectively blocks one reactive site in a multifunctional compound such that a chemical reaction can be carried out selectively at another unprotected reactive site in the meaning conventionally associated with it in synthetic chemistry. Certain processes of this invention rely upon the protective groups to block reactive oxygen atoms present in the reactants. Acceptable protective groups for alcoholic or phenolic hydroxyl groups, which may be removed successively and selectively includes groups protected as acetates, haloalkyl carbonates, benzyl ethers, alkylsilyl ethers, heterocyclyl ethers, and methyl or alkyl ethers, and the like. Protective or blocking groups for carboxyl groups are similar to those described for hydroxyl groups, preferably *tert*-butyl, benzyl or methyl esters

"Inert organic solvent" or "inert solvent" means the solvent is inert under the conditions of the reaction being described in conjunction therewith, including for example, benzene, toluene, acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran, N,N-dimethylformamide, chloroform, methylene chloride or dichloromethane, dichloroethane, diethyl ether, ethyl acetate, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, *tert*-butanol, dioxane, pyridine, and the like. Unless specified to the contrary, the solvents used in the reactions of the present invention are inert solvents.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable" means that which is useful in preparing a pharmaceutical composition that is generally safe, non-toxic, and neither biologically nor otherwise undesirable and includes that which is acceptable for veterinary as well as human pharmaceutical use.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable salts" of a compound means salts that are pharmaceutically acceptable, as defined herein, and that possess the desired pharmacological activity of the parent compound. Such salts include:

- (1) acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids such as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and the like; or formed with organic

acids such as acetic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, benzoic, camphorsulfonic acid, citric acid, ethanesulfonic acid, fumaric acid, glucoheptonic acid, gluconic acid, glutamic acid, glycolic acid, hydroxynaphthoic acid, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonic acid, lactic acid, maleic acid, malic acid, malonic acid, mandelic acid, methanesulfonic acid, muconic acid, 2-naphthalenesulfonic acid, propionic acid, salicylic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, trimethylacetic acid, and the like; or

(2) salts formed when an acidic proton present in the parent compound either is replaced by a metal ion, e.g., an alkali metal ion, an alkaline earth ion, or an aluminum ion; or coordinates with an organic or inorganic base. Acceptable organic bases include diethanolamine, ethanolamine, N-methylglucamine, triethanolamine, tromethamine, and the like. Acceptable inorganic bases include aluminum hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate and sodium hydroxide.

The preferred pharmaceutically acceptable salts are the salts formed from acetic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, methanesulfonic acid, maleic acid, phosphoric acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, sodium, potassium, calcium, zinc, and magnesium.

It should be understood that all references to pharmaceutically acceptable salts include solvent addition forms (solvates) or crystal forms (polymorphs) as defined herein, of the same acid addition salt.

"Solvates" means solvent addition forms that contain either stoichiometric or non stoichiometric amounts of solvent. Some compounds have a tendency to trap a fixed molar ratio of solvent molecules in the crystalline solid state, thus forming a solvate. If the solvent is water the solvate formed is a hydrate, when the solvent is alcohol, the solvate formed is an alcoholate. Hydrates are formed by the combination of one or more molecules of water with one of the substances in which the water retains its molecular state as H₂O, such combination being able to form one or more hydrate.

"Prodrug" means a pharmacologically inactive form of a compound which must be metabolized in vivo, e.g., by biological fluids or enzymes, by a subject after administration into a pharmacologically active form of the compound in order to produce the desired pharmacological effect. The prodrug can be metabolized before absorption, during absorption, after absorption, or at a specific site. Although metabolism occurs for many compounds primarily in the liver, almost all other tissues and organs, especially the lung, are able to carry out varying degrees of metabolism. Prodrug forms of compounds may be

utilized, for example, to improve bioavailability, improve subject acceptability such as by masking or reducing unpleasant characteristics such as bitter taste or gastrointestinal irritability, alter solubility such as for intravenous use, provide for prolonged or sustained release or delivery, improve ease of formulation, or provide site-specific delivery of the compound. Reference to a compound herein includes prodrug forms of a compound.

"Subject" means mammals and non-mammals. Mammals means any member of the Mammalia class including, but not limited to, humans; non-human primates such as chimpanzees and other apes and monkey species; farm animals such as cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and swine; domestic animals such as rabbits, dogs, and cats; laboratory animals including rodents, such as rats, mice, and guinea pigs; and the like. Examples of non-mammals include, but are not limited to, birds, and the like. The term "subject" does not denote a particular age or sex.

"Therapeutically effective amount" means an amount of a compound that, when administered to a subject for treating a disease state, is sufficient to effect such treatment for the disease state. The "therapeutically effective amount" will vary depending on the compound, the disease state being treated, the severity of the disease treated, the age and relative health of the subject, the route and form of administration, the judgement of the attending medical or veterinary practitioner, and other factors.

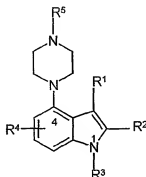
"Disease state" means any disease, condition, symptom, or indication.

Throughout the application the following abbreviations are used with the following meaning:

Alk	Alkyl group
Bn	Benzyl group
Boc	<i>N</i> - <i>tert</i> -butoxycarbonyl
<i>m</i> -CPBA	<i>m</i> -Chloroperbenzoic acid
DMF	<i>N,N</i> -Dimethylformamide
DMSO	Dimethylsulfoxide
Hal	Halogen
L	Leaving group

Oxone™	Potassium peroxymonosulfate
P or P'	Protective group
THF	Tetrahydrofuran

The naming and numbering of the compounds of this invention is illustrated below:



5

In general, the nomenclature used in this Application is based on AUTONOM™ v.4.0, a Beilstein Institute computerized system for the generation of IUPAC systematic nomenclature. However, because a strict adherence to these recommendations would result in the names changing substantially when only a single substituent is changed, compounds have been named in a manner that maintains consistency of nomenclature for the basic structure of the molecule.

For example, a compound of Formula I wherein R¹, R², R⁴, and R⁵ are hydrogen, and R³ is naphthalenyl-1-sulfonyl, is named 1-(Naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole.

The following compounds of Formula I, or individual isomers, racemic or non-racemic mixtures of isomers, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof, are preferred:

R¹ is independently in each occurrence preferably hydrogen, halo, haloalkyl, or alkyl; preferably hydrogen or halo;

R² is independently in each occurrence preferably hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, or C₁₋₆-alkylthio; more preferably hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and more preferably hydrogen;

R³ is independently in each occurrence preferably -SO₂-Ar, wherein Ar is aryl or heteroaryl, more preferably arylsulfonyl;

20

R⁴ is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkylthio, trifluoromethyl, cyano, and acyl; and

R⁵ is preferably hydrogen or alkyl.

Exemplary particularly preferred compounds, or individual isomers, racemic or
5 non-racemic mixtures of isomers, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof, include:

1-(naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3,5-dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-bromo-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

10 1-benzenesulfonyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

4-piperazin-1-yl-1-(3-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-1H-indole;

4-piperazin-1-yl-1-(thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

15 1-(4-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole;

1-(4-*ter*-butyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole

1-(2,5-dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

20 1-(4-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2,5-dimethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

- 1-(3-bromo-5-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
 1-(5-bromo-6-chloro-pyridine-3-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
 1-(2-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
NN-dimethyl-3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonamide;
 5 *N*-cyclopropyl-3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonamide;
 1-(2-fluoro-5-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
 3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzonitrile;
 1-(2-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
 1-[3-(2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
 10 1-(3-ethanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
 4-piperazin-1-yl-1-[3-(propane-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-1*H*-indole;
 1-(1-methyl-1*H*-imidazole-4-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
 1-(2,6-difluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
 1-benzenesulfonyl-3-bromo-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole;
 15 1-benzenesulfonyl-2-methyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole; and
 4-piperazin-1-yl-1-(3-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-1*H*-indole.

It has been shown that compounds of formula I have a good affinity to the 5-HT₆ receptor. The preferred compounds show a pK_i > 8.0.

Compounds	pK _i
1-(Naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.8
1-(3,5-Dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.43
1-Benzenesulfonyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.87
4-Piperazin-1-yl-1-(3-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.70

Compounds	pKi
4-Piperazin-1-yl-1-(thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.35
1-(4-Methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.35
1-(4-Fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	8.86
1-(4-Fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.08
1-(4- <i>ter</i> -Butyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	8.45
1-(4-Methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	7.37
1-(2,5-Dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.82
1-(3-Fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.81
1-(4-Chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.27
1-(2,5-Dimethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.03
1-(3-Methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.43
1-(3-Chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.96
1-(3-Methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	8.57
1-(3-Bromo-5-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	8.12
1-(5-Bromo-6-chloro-pyridine-3-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	8.25
1-(2-Fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	10.28
<i>NN</i> -Dimethyl-3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonamide	8.69
<i>N</i> -Cyclopropyl-3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonamide	8.90
1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-bromo-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	9.91
1-(2-Fluoro-5-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	7.86

Compounds	pKi
3-(4-Piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzonitrile	8.95
1-(2-Methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole	7.78
1-[3-(2-Methyl-propane-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole	8.72
1-(3-Ethanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole	8.81
4-Piperazin-1-yl-1-[3-(propane-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-1H-indole	8.81

Compounds of the present invention may be made by the methods depicted in the illustrative synthetic reaction schemes shown and described below.

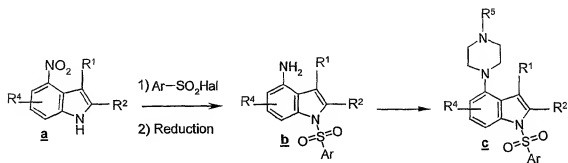
The starting materials and reagents used in preparing these compounds generally are either available from commercial suppliers, such as Aldrich Chemical Co., or are prepared by methods known to those skilled in the art following procedures set forth in references such as *Fieser and Fieser's Reagents for Organic Synthesis*, Wiley & Sons: New York, 1991, Volumes 1-15; *Rodd's Chemistry of Carbon Compounds*, Elsevier Science Publishers, 1989, Volumes 1-5 and Supplementals; and *Organic Reactions*, Wiley & Sons: New York, 1991, Volumes 1-40. The following synthetic reaction schemes are merely illustrative of some methods by which the compounds of the present invention may be synthesized, and various modifications to these synthetic reaction schemes may be made and will be suggested to one skilled in the art having referred to the disclosure contained in this Application.

The starting materials and the intermediates of the synthetic reaction schemes may be isolated and purified if desired using conventional techniques, including but not limited to filtration, distillation, crystallization, chromatography, and the like. Such materials may be characterized using conventional means, including physical constants and spectral data.

Unless specified to the contrary, the reactions described herein preferably take place at atmospheric pressure over a temperature range from about -78°C to about 150°C, more preferably from about 0°C to about 125°C, and most preferably and conveniently at about room (or ambient) temperature, e.g., about 20°C.

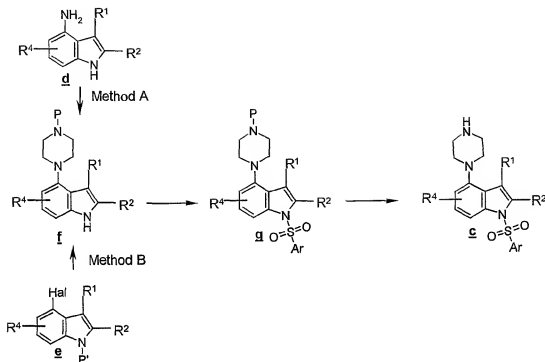
In general, the compounds of Formula I are prepared following the method described in Schemes A, B or C.

Scheme A



- 5 1-Arylsulfonyl-4-piperazinyl indoles of Formula **c** can be prepared by methods well known in the art, for example from 4-nitroindole of formula **a** by treatment with arylsulfonyl halide, preferably arylsulfonyl chloride, followed with reduction which can yield a 4-aminoindole of general formula **b**, which then can be treated with bis-chloroethylamine or a suitable derivative thereof.

Scheme B

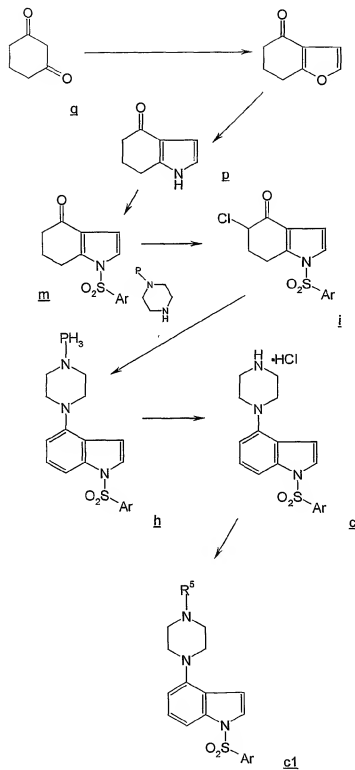


A 1-arylsulfonyl-4-piperazinyl indole of formula **c** can be prepared by removal of the protecting group P from 1-arylsulfonyl-4-piperazinyl indole **g** under standard conditions as described herein. The arylsulfonyl indole of formula **g** can be prepared by treatment of the indole of formula **f**, wherein P is protecting group, with an arylsulfonyl halide, preferably arylsulfonyl chloride, in an inert solvent in the presence of a base. The indole of general formula **f** can be prepared by different methods, such as but not limited to, method A and method B.

In method A the piperazine indole of formula **f** can be prepared from the aminoindole of formula **d** by reaction of the amino group with bis-dichloroethylamine or a suitably protected derivative thereof as is well known in the art, as described for example in Mewshaw, R. et al. *Bioorg.Med.Chem.Lett.*; 8; 19; 1998; 2675-2680.

In method B the piperazine indole of formula **f** can be prepared from a protected 4-haloindole derivative **e**, wherein P' is a protecting group, preferably a triisopropylsilyl protected 4-bromoindole by Palladium-catalyzed coupling with a suitably protected piperazine, such as Boc-piperazine (Buchwald reaction) or a benzyl piperazine. Removal of the indole protecting group by methods well known in the art, can yield the indole of Formula **f**.

- 16 -

SCHEME C

An 1-arylsulfonyl-4-piperazinyl indole of formula c can be prepared by removing the protecting group P from an 1-arylsulfonyl-4-piperazinyl indole of formula h, in a solvent

5 such as toluene and in the presence of e.g. hydrogen chloride gas. The arylsulfonyl indole

of formula h can, on its turn, be prepared by treating at about 90°C an arylsulfonyl-halo-tetrahydroindolone of formula i, such as an arylsulfonyl-chloro-tetrahydroindolone, with a protected piperazine, such as Boc-piperazine, in the presence of a catalyst like titanium tetrachloride and in a solvent like toluene. The arylsulfonyl-halo-tetrahydroindolone of formula j can, on its turn, be obtained by halogenating the corresponding arylsulfonyltetrahydroindolone of formula m in e.g. acetic acid/water 1:1 and in the presence of e.g. Cu(Hal)₂, preferably CuCl₂. The arylsulfonyltetrahydroindolone of formula m can be finally obtained by treating 1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indol-4-one (formula p) with e.g. arylsulfonyl chloride in the presence of e.g. sodiumhydride, the reaction taking place at about 0°C and in a solvent such as NMP or DMF.

1, 5, 6, 7-tetrahydro-indol-4-one (formula p) can be finally obtained from 1, 3 cyclohexane-dione (formula g) as described in example 4 (alternative).

If desired, the compound of general formula c can be converted into a compound of general formula c₁ by alkylating the piperidine rest by means of e.g. R³-Hal and a conventional Lewis and /or Brönsted acid catalyst.

The compounds of the invention have selective 5-HT₆ receptor affinity and as such are expected to be useful in the treatment of certain CNS disorders such as Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, anxiety, depression, manic depression, psychosis, epilepsy, obsessive compulsive disorders, migraine, Alzheimer's disease (enhancement of cognitive memory), sleep disorders, feeding disorders such as anorexia and bulimia, panic attacks, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), attention deficit disorder (ADD), schizophrenia, disorders associated with spinal trauma and/or head injury such as hydrocephalus, and withdrawal from drug abuse such as cocaine, ethanol, nicotine and benzodiazepines. Such compounds are also expected to be of use in the treatment of certain GI (gastrointestinal) disorders such functional bowel disorder or irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), as well as for the treatment of obesity.

The pharmacology of the compounds of this invention was determined by art recognized procedures. The in vitro techniques for determining the affinities of test compounds for the 5-HT₆ receptor in radioligand binding and functional assays are described in Example 14.

The present invention includes pharmaceutical compositions comprising at least one compound of the present invention, or an individual isomer, racemic or non-racemic mixture of isomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, together with at

least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and optionally other therapeutic and/or prophylactic ingredients.

In general, the compounds of the present invention will be administered in a therapeutically effective amount by any of the accepted modes of administration for agents that serve similar utilities. Suitable dosage ranges are typically 1-500 mg daily, preferably 1-100 mg daily, and most preferably 1-30 mg daily, depending upon numerous factors such as the severity of the disease to be treated, the age and relative health of the subject, the potency of the compound used, the route and form of administration, the indication towards which the administration is directed, and the preferences and experience of the medical practitioner involved. One of ordinary skill in the art of treating such diseases will be able, without undue experimentation and in reliance upon personal knowledge and the disclosure of this Application, to ascertain a therapeutically effective amount of the compounds of the present invention for a given disease.

In general, compounds of the present invention will be administered as pharmaceutical formulations including those suitable for oral (including buccal and sublingual), rectal, nasal, topical, pulmonary, vaginal, or parenteral (including intramuscular, intraarterial, intrathecal, subcutaneous and intravenous) administration or in a form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation. The preferred manner of administration is generally oral using a convenient daily dosage regimen which can be adjusted according to the degree of affliction.

A compound or compounds of the present invention, together with one or more conventional adjuvants, carriers, or diluents, may be placed into the form of pharmaceutical compositions and unit dosages. The pharmaceutical compositions and unit dosage forms may be comprised of conventional ingredients in conventional proportions, with or without additional active compounds or principles, and the unit dosage forms may contain any suitable effective amount of the active ingredient commensurate with the intended daily dosage range to be employed. The pharmaceutical compositions may be employed as solids, such as tablets or filled capsules, semisolids, powders, sustained release formulations, or liquids such as solutions, suspensions, emulsions, elixirs, or filled capsules for oral use; or in the form of suppositories for rectal or vaginal administration; or in the form of sterile injectable solutions for parenteral use. Formulations containing about one (1) milligram of active ingredient or, more broadly, about 0.01 to about one hundred (100) milligrams, per tablet, are accordingly suitable representative unit dosage forms.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated in a wide variety of oral administration dosage forms. The pharmaceutical compositions and dosage forms may comprise a compound or compounds of the present invention or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof as the active component. The pharmaceutically acceptable carriers may be either solid or liquid. Solid form preparations include powders, tablets, pills, capsules, cachets, suppositories, and dispersible granules. A solid carrier may be one or more substances which may also act as diluents, flavoring agents, solubilizers, lubricants, suspending agents, binders, preservatives, tablet disintegrating agents, or an encapsulating material. In powders, the carrier generally is a finely divided solid which is a mixture with the finely divided active component. In tablets, the active component generally is mixed with the carrier having the necessary binding capacity in suitable proportions and compacted in the shape and size desired. The powders and tablets preferably contain from about one (1) to about seventy (70) percent of the active compound. Suitable carriers include but are not limited to magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, talc, sugar, lactose, pectin, dextrin, starch, gelatin, tragacanth, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, a low melting wax, cocoa butter, and the like. The term "preparation" is intended to include the formulation of the active compound with encapsulating material as carrier, providing a capsule in which the active component, with or without carriers, is surrounded by a carrier, which is in association with it. Similarly, cachets and lozenges are included. Tablets, powders, capsules, pills, cachets, and lozenges may be as solid forms suitable for oral administration.

Other forms suitable for oral administration include liquid form preparations including emulsions, syrups, drixirs, aqueous solutions, aqueous suspensions, or solid form preparations which are intended to be converted shortly before use to liquid form preparations. Emulsions may be prepared in solutions, for example, in aqueous propylene glycol solutions or may contain emulsifying agents, for example, such as lecithin, sorbitan monooleate, or acacia. Aqueous solutions can be prepared by dissolving the active component in water and adding suitable colorants, flavors, stabilizing, and thickening agents. Aqueous suspensions can be prepared by dispersing the finely divided active component in water with viscous material, such as natural or synthetic gums, resins, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, and other well known suspending agents. Solid form preparations include solutions, suspensions, and emulsions, and may contain, in addition to the active component, colorants, flavors, stabilizers, buffers, artificial and natural sweeteners, dispersants, thickeners, solubilizing agents, and the like.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for parenteral administration (e.g., by injection, for example bolus injection or continuous infusion) and may be presented in unit dose form in ampoules, pre-filled syringes, small volume infusion or in multi-dose containers with an added preservative. The compositions may take such

5 forms as suspensions, solutions, or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, for example solutions in aqueous polyethylene glycol. Examples of oily or nonaqueous carriers, diluents, solvents or vehicles include propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, vegetable oils (e.g., olive oil), and injectable organic esters (e.g., ethyl oleate), and may contain

10 formulatary agents such as preserving, wetting, emulsifying or suspending, stabilizing and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form, obtained by aseptic isolation of sterile solid or by lyophilisation from solution for constitution before use with a suitable vehicle, e.g., sterile, pyrogen-free water.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for topical administration to the epidermis as ointments, creams or lotions, or as a transdermal patch.

15 Ointments and creams may, for example, be formulated with an aqueous or oily base with the addition of suitable thickening and/or gelling agents. Lotions may be formulated with an aqueous or oily base and will in general also containing one or more emulsifying agents, stabilizing agents, dispersing agents, suspending agents, thickening agents, or coloring agents. Formulations suitable for topical administration in the mouth include lozenges

20 comprising active agents in a flavored base, usually sucrose and acacia or tragacanth; pastilles comprising the active ingredient in an inert base such as gelatine and glycerine or sucrose and acacia; and mouthwashes comprising the active ingredient in a suitable liquid carrier.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for administration as

25 suppositories. A low melting wax, such as a mixture of fatty acid glycerides or cocoa butter is first melted and the active component is dispersed homogeneously, for example, by stirring. The molten homogeneous mixture is then poured into convenient sized molds, allowed to cool, and to solidify.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for vaginal

30 administration. Pessaries, tampons, creams, gels, pastes, foams or sprays containing in addition to the active ingredient such carriers as are known in the art to be appropriate.

The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for nasal administration. The solutions or suspensions are applied directly to the nasal cavity by conventional means, for example, with a dropper, pipette or spray. The formulations may

be provided in a single or multidose form. In the latter case of a dropper or pipette, this may be achieved by the patient administering an appropriate, predetermined volume of the solution or suspension. In the case of a spray, this may be achieved for example by means of a metering atomizing spray pump.

5 The compounds of the present invention may be formulated for aerosol administration, particularly to the respiratory tract and including intranasal administration. The compound will generally have a small particle size for example of the order of five (5) microns or less. Such a particle size may be obtained by means known in the art, for example by micronization. The active ingredient is provided in a pressurized
10 pack with a suitable propellant such as a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC), for example, dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, or dichlorotetrafluoroethane, or carbon dioxide or other suitable gas. The aerosol may conveniently also contain a surfactant such as lecithin. The dose of drug may be controlled by a metered valve. Alternatively the active ingredients may be provided in a form of a dry powder, for
15 example a powder mix of the compound in a suitable powder base such as lactose, starch, starch derivatives such as hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). The powder carrier will form a gel in the nasal cavity. The powder composition may be presented in unit dose form for example in capsules or cartridges of e.g., gelatine or blister packs from which the powder may be administered by means of an inhaler.

20 When desired, formulations can be prepared with enteric coatings adapted for sustained or controlled release administration of the active ingredient. For example, the compounds of the present invention can be formulated in transdermal

or subcutaneous drug delivery devices. These delivery systems are advantageous when sustained release of the compound is necessary and when patient compliance with a
25 treatment regimen is crucial. Compounds in transdermal delivery systems are frequently attached to a skin-adhesive solid support. The compound of interest can also be combined with a penetration enhancer, e.g., Azone (1-dodecylazacycloheptan-2-one). Sustained release delivery systems are inserted subcutaneously into the subdermal layer by surgery or injection. The subdermal implants encapsulate the compound in a lipid soluble membrane,
30 e.g., silicone rubber, or a biodegradable polymer, e.g., polylactic acid.

The pharmaceutical preparations are preferably in unit dosage forms. In such form, the preparation is subdivided into unit doses containing appropriate quantities of the active component. The unit dosage form can be a packaged preparation, the package containing discrete quantities of preparation, such as packeted tablets, capsules, and

powders in vials or ampoules. Also, the unit dosage form can be a capsule, tablet, cachet, or lozenge itself, or it can be the appropriate number of any of these in packaged form.

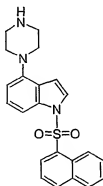
- Other suitable pharmaceutical carriers and their formulations are described in *Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy* 1995, edited by E. W. Martin, Mack Publishing Company, 19th edition, Easton, Pennsylvania. Representative pharmaceutical formulations containing a compound of the present invention are described in Examples 7-13.

EXAMPLES

- The following preparations and examples are given to enable those skilled in the art to more clearly understand and to practice the present invention. They should not be considered as limiting the scope of the invention, but merely as being illustrative and representative thereof.

EXAMPLE 1

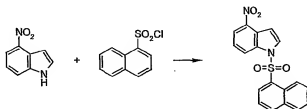
1-(Naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole (1).



15

Step 1:

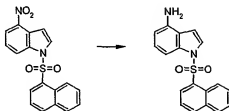
1-(Naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-nitro-1H-indole.



- 23 -

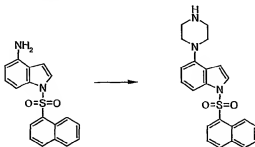
To a suspension of 370 mg (2.3 mmole) 4-nitro-1*H*-indole in 10 mL toluene was added 5 mL 4 M sodium hydroxide and 50 mg tetra-*n*-butyl ammonium hydrogen sulfate. Solid naphthalene-1-sulfonyl chloride (533 mg, 2.35 mmole) was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.25 hr. The mixture was diluted with 5 mL water and extracted with 25 mL ethyl ether. The organic phase was washed with 5 mL water, 5 mL saturated sodium chloride, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was recrystallized from ether/hexane to provide 1-(naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-nitro-1*H*-indole as light yellow crystals, 779 mg, m.p. 156-157°C.

10 Step 2:

1-(Naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-1*H*-indol-4-ylamine.

A mixture of 722 mg (1.97 mmole) 1-(naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-nitro-1*H*-indole and 100 mg 10% palladium on carbon in 15 mL ethanol and 5 mL methanol was shaken under 40 psi hydrogen at room temperature for 4 hrs. The catalyst was removed by filtration and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was recrystallized from ether/hexane to provide 1-(naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-1*H*-indol-4-ylamine as light yellow-green crystals, 480 mg, m.p. 133-134°C.

20 Step 3:

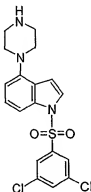
1-(Naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole.

- 24 -

A mixture of 461 mg (1.43 mmole) 1-(naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-1*H*-indol-4-ylamine, 255 mg (1.43mmole) bis(2-chloroethyl)amine hydrochloride, and 0.5 mL diisopropylethylamine in 5 mL chlorobenzene was heated under reflux. After 4 hours, 0.25 mL diisopropylethylamine was added and heating under reflux was continued for 15 hours. The mixture was partitioned between 25 mL ethyl acetate and 10 mL 5% sodium hydroxide. The organic phase was washed with 5 mL saturated sodium chloride solution, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was subjected to low pressure column chromatography over silica gel 230-400 mesh eluting with 8% methanol in chloroform. 1-(Naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (1) was isolated as the hydrochloride salt from ethyl acetate/ether, 54 mg, M+H = 392.

EXAMPLE 2

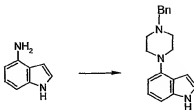
1-(3,5-Dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (2)



Step 1:

4-(4-Benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1*H*-indole

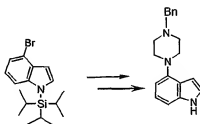
Method A



A mixture of 500 mg (3.78 mmole) 1*H*-indol-4-yl-amine, 993 mg (3.78 mmole) N-benzyl-bis(2-chloroethyl)amine hydrochloride, and 1.32 mL (7.6 mmole) diisopropylethylamine in 10 mL chlorobenzene was heated at 130°C for 24 hours. Another 0.66 mL (3.8 mmole) diisopropylethylamine was added and the mixture was heated at

130°C for an additional 5 hours. The mixture was partitioned between 25 mL ethyl acetate and 10 mL 5% sodium hydroxide. The organic phase was extracted with 10 mL 3 N hydrochloric acid. The aqueous phase was washed with 15 mL ethyl ether, then made basic with 50% sodium hydroxide. The product was extracted with 25 mL dichloromethane, the organic phase was washed with 10 mL water, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. 4-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole (274 mg) was isolated as the hydrochloride salt from ethyl ether.

Method B

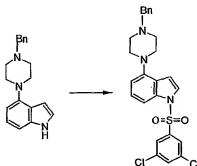


A mixture of 1.0 g (2.8 mmole) 4-bromo-triisopropylsilyl-1H-indole, 0.54 mL (3.1 mmole) N-benzylpiperazine, 31 mg (.14 mmole) palladium(II)acetate, 28 mg (0.14 mmole) tri-t-butylphosphine and 403 mg sodium t-butoxide in 5 mL xylene was heated at 120° for 15 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with 100 mL 50% ether-hexane and filtered through a pad of silica gel 230-400 mesh. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford 1-triisopropylsilyl-4-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole as a semi-solid, 1.2 g, M+H = 448.

To a solution of 1.2 gram (2.68 mmole) 1-triisopropylsilyl-4-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole in 20 mL tetrahydrofuran was added 3 mL (3 mmole) 1.0 M tetrabutylammonium fluoride in tetrahydrofuran. After 2 hours the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was partitioned between 25 mL ethyl ether and 10 mL 10% sodium carbonate. The organic phase was washed with 3 x 10 mL water, dried (magnesium sulfate), and concentrated. 4-(4-Benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole was isolated as the white hydrochloride salt from ethyl ether, 604 mg, m.p. 233-234°C.

Step 2:

4-(4-Benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1-(3,5-dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-1H-indole



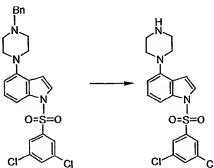
- 4-(4-Benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole (274 mg, 0.94 mmole) and 50 mg tetra-*n*-butylammonium hydrogen sulfate was stirred in a mixture of 10 mL toluene and 5 mL 4 *N* sodium hydroxide. Solid 3,5-dichlorobenzenesulfonyl chloride (246 mg, 1.0 mmole) was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 hours, then it was diluted with 20 mL water and extracted with 25 mL ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with 10 mL saturated sodium chloride solution, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated. Recrystallization from dichloromethane provided 473 mg of 4-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1-(3,5-dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-1H-indole, m.p. 201-203°C.

Similarly the following intermediates were prepared:

- 4-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1-(4-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-1H-indole, m.p. 162-163 °C;
4-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1-(4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-1H-indole, m.p. 151-152 °C.

15 Step 3:

1-(3,5-Dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole.(2)



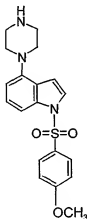
A solution of .1 g (.2 mmole) 4-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1-(3,5-dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-1H-indole and 0.05 mL (.46 mmole) 1-chloroethyl chloroformate in 10

- 27 -

mL 1,2-dichloroethane was heated under reflux for .5 hour. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in 6 mL methanol. The solution was heated under reflux for 1 hour, then it was concentrated. 1-(3,5-Dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (**2**) was isolated as the hydrochloride salt from methanol/ethyl ether, 74 mg, M+H = 410, m.p. 156-157 °C.

EXAMPLE 3

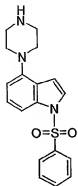
1-(4-Methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole(**3**)



A mixture of 250 mg(0.54 mmole) 4-(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1-(4-methoxybenzenesulfonyl)-1*H*-indole, 500 mg (8 mmole) ammonium formate and 50 mg 10% Pd-C in 20 mL ethanol was heated under reflux for 2 hours. The mixture was filtered through Whatman GF/B and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was partitioned between 10 mL 10% sodium carbonate and 25 mL ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with 5 mL water, 5 mL saturated sodium chloride, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The 1-(4-Methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (**3**) was isolated as the hydrochloride salt from methanol-ethyl acetate-ether, 128 mg, m.p. 209-210°C.

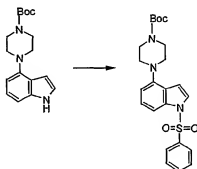
Similarly the following compound was made from the intermediate in Example 2
Step 2:

1-(4-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (**4**) m.p. 203-204°C as dihydrochloride salt.

EXAMPLE 41-Benzenesulfonyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole (5)

Step 1:

- 5 4-(1-Benzenesulfonyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester.

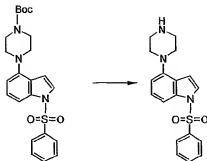


- A mixture of 165 mg (0.55 mmole) 4-(1H-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester, 25 mg tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate and 0.08 mL (0.6 mmole) benzenesulfonyl chloride in 2 mL 4 M sodium hydroxide and 5 mL toluene was stirred at
 10 room temperature for 2 hours. The mixture was diluted with 5 mL water and extracted with 25 mL ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with 5 mL water, 5 mL saturated sodium chloride, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated. 4-(1-Benzenesulfonyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester was isolated by recrystallization from ether/hexane, 223 mg, m.p. 143-144°C.

- 15 Step 2:

1-Benzenesulfonyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole.

- 29 -



A solution of 125 mg (0.28 mmole) 4-(1-benzenesulfonyl-1H-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester in 2 mL trifluoroacetic acid was stored at room temperature for 10 minutes. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was partitioned between 3 mL 10% sodium carbonate and 20 mL ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with 5 mL water, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated. 1-Benzenesulfonyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole (5) was isolated as the hydrochloride salt from ethyl acetate-ethyl ether, 73 mg, M+H = 342; m.p.294-295 °C.

Similarly following the procedure of Example 4 the following compounds were prepared:

1-(3-bromo-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole (6), M+H = 420; m.p.158-159 °C as the hydrochloride salt ;

4-piperazin-1-yl-1-(3-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-1H-indole (7), M+H = 410; m.p.256-257 °C as the hydrochloride salt;

4-piperazin-1-yl-1-(thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-1H-indole (8), m.p.208-209 °C as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(4-*tert*-butyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole (9), mp 231-232 °C (dec.) as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(4-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole (10), mp 234-235 °C (dec.) as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(2,5-dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole (11), mp 237-238 °C (dec.) as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(3-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole (12), mp 227-228 °C (dec.) as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(4-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole(13), mp 193-194 °C as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(2,5-dimethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (14), mp 245-246 °C (dec.) as trifluoroacetate salt;

- 5 1-(3-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (15), mp 221 °C (dec.) as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (16), 234-235 °C (dec.) as trifluoroacetate salt;

- 10 1-(3-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*indole (17), 202-203 °C as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(3-bromo-5-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (18), 181-182 °C as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(5-bromo-6-chloro-pyridine-3-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (19), 199-200 °C (dec) as trifluoroacetate salt;

- 15 1-(2-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (20), mp 231-232 °C (dec.);

NN-dimethyl-3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonamide (21), $M^+ = 449$;

N-cyclopropyl-3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonamide (22), $M^+ = 461$;

1-(2-fluoro-5-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (23), mp 172-173 °C (dec.) as trifluoroacetate salt;

- 20 3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzonitrile (24), mp 238 °C (dec.) as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(2-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (25), mp 171 °C as trifluoroacetate salt;

- 25 1-[3-(2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (26), mp 220-222 °C as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(3-ethanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole (27), mp 166-167 °C, as hydrochloride salt;

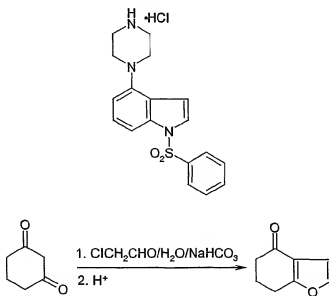
4-piperazin-1-yl-1-[3-(propane-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-1*H*-indole (28). mp 173-174 °C as trifluoroacetate salt;

1-(2,6-difluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole, (29) mp 223-224 °C, as trifluoroacetate salt; and

5 1-(1-Methyl-1*H*-imidazole-4-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole, (30)).

mp 230-231 °C, as trifluoroacetate salt.

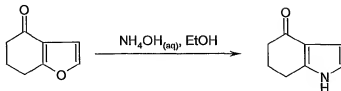
EXAMPLE 4 (alternative)



- 10 To a mixture of sodium bicarbonate (10.0 g, 0.12 mol) in water (80 ml) cooled in an ice bath was added 45% aqueous chloroacetaldehyde solution (17.7 ml, 0.122 mol). A solution of 1,3-cyclohexanedione (11.2 g, 0.1 mol) in water (90 ml) was then added over about 4 hours. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. After sampling for HPLC the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (100 ml).
- 15 The pH was adjusted to about 1.2 with 50% sulfuric acid (30 ml). After stirring for 1 hour at room temperature the aqueous phase was separated. The organic phase was washed with a mixture of 50% sulfuric acid (25 ml) and water (50 ml), followed by saturated sodium carbonate solution (50 ml). The aqueous phases were sequentially backwashed with ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were filtered and evaporated to dryness
- 20 to give a red oil (11 g). The residue was taken up in methylene chloride (25 ml) and hexane (25 ml) and stirred with silica gel (20 g). After 2 hours the silica gel was filtered off and washed with 50% methylene chloride/hexane (50 ml). Evaporation to dryness gave an oil (9.25 g, 68% yield).

- 32 -

NMR: 7.32 2H d, 6.67 2H d, 2.89 2H t, 2.51 2H t, 2.18 2H m

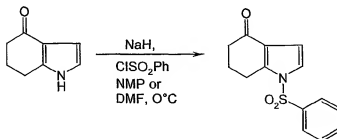


A mixture of 6,7-Dihydro-5H-benzofuran-4-one (9.25 g, 67.9 mmol), 30% ammonia solution (60 ml, 940 mmol) and reagent alcohol (25 ml) was heated in a sealed vessel in a 140 to 150 °C oil bath for 17 hours. After cooling the mixture was sampled for HPLC, and diluted with reagent alcohol (25 ml).

A 10-ml aliquot was evaporated to dryness, diluted with 5% isopropyl alcohol/methylene chloride (20 ml) and applied to a silica gel pad (2.0 g). Elution with 5% isopropyl alcohol/methylene chloride (80 ml total) and evaporation to dryness gave 0.73 g of a yellow solid.

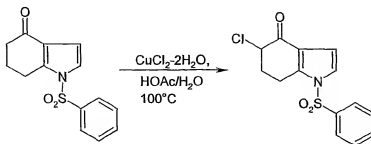
Another 10-ml aliquot was treated with Darco KB activated carbon (0.5 g) for 2 hours at room temperature. The carbon was filtered off and washed with 50% aqueous alcohol (10 ml). The filtrate was concentrated to about 3 g, diluted with water (10 ml), heated to the reflux and allowed to cool whereupon the product crystallized. The 1,5,6,7-Tetrahydro-indol-4-one was filtered off, washed with water (1 ml) and dried under vacuum at about 70 °C to give 0.46 g of a tan solid.

NMR: 8.74 1H br, 6.68 2H dd, 6.56 2H dd, 2.83 2H t, 2.49 2H t, 2.16 2H m.

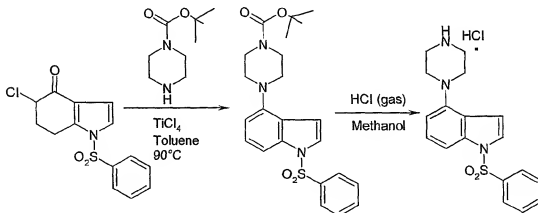


A mixture of 1,5,6,7-Tetrahydro-indol-4-one (25.3 g, 184 mmol), and DMF (125 ml) was stirred under nitrogen and cooled to 5-6 °C. This mixture was treated with NaH (8.1 g, 202.4 mmol of a 60% dispersion in mineral oil) and allowed to warm to room temperature over about 1 hour. The mixture was recooled to 5-6 °C and treated with benzenesulfonyl chloride (33 g, 194 mmol). The mixture was warmed to room temperature over about 1 hour and treated in a dropwise manner with water (200mL) with vigorous stirring. The solid so precipitated was collected by filtration and washed subsequently with water (200 mL) followed by hexanes (100 mL). The solid was air dried and placed in a vacuum oven

for 14 hours at 50-55 °C with a nitrogen bleed. A total of 47.24 g of solid 1-benzenesulfonyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indol-4-one was recovered.



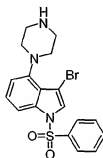
- A mixture of 1-benzenesulfonyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indol-4-one (56.55 g, 200 mmol),
 5 $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (77.12g, 450 mmol) was degassed under vacuum/nitrogen purge and stirred in a 1:1 $\text{HOAc}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ solvent mixture (1000 mL total) which was also degassed under vacuum/nitrogen purge. This mixture was stirred at 100-101 °C for 18 hours. It was then cooled to 5-6 °C, stirred and the solid collected by filtration. This solid was digested off of the filter with hot (> 70 °C) ethyl acetate (700 mL) to dissolve the product. The solution
 10 was polish filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to a total volume of about 200 mL. The solid product was collected by filtration, washed with hexanes (300 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to afford 41.03 g 1-benzenesulfonyl-5-chloro-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indol-4-one.



- Titanium tetrachloride (8ml 13.77g) dissolved in toluene (65ml) was added to piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (48g) dissolved in toluene (363ml) at 0-5°C over about 10minutes. The green reaction mixture was stirred for 10minutes. 1-Benzenesulfonyl-5-chloro-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indol-4-one (14.52g, 46.28mM) was dissolved in warm toluene (400ml) and then added to the reaction mixture over about 15 minutes below 15°C. The
 20 reaction mixture was heated to 90°C for 2 hours. Analysis by TLC (30% ethyl acetate/hexane) showed that the reaction was complete. The reaction mixture was cooled

- 34 -

to 20°C and filtered through Celite. The solvent was distilled to a small volume (~300ml) and the residual solvent displaced with methanol 500ml. Hydrogen chloride gas (29g) was passed into the reaction solution and the reaction mixture concentrated to about 250ml under vacuum over about half an hour. The reaction mixture was cooled in an ice bath to 0-5°C. The product was collected by filtration and dried under vacuum with a nitrogen bleed. Yield of 1-benzenesulfonyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole hydrochloride was 14.12g
 Mp: 275.6-285.6°C.

EXAMPLE 5**1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-bromo-4-piperazin-1-yl-1*H*-indole**

10

Step 1**4-(3-Bromo-1*H*-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester**

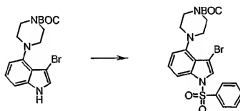
To an ice-cooled solution of 0.4 g (1.32 mmole) 4-(1*H*-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester in 10 mL THF was added 0.83 mL (1.65 mmole) 2*M* *n*-butyl lithium in cyclohexane. The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min and then cooled to -70 °C. A solution of 0.26 g (1.44 mmole) *N*-bromosuccinimide in 6 mL THF was added and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 hr. The mixture was diluted with 10 mL water and extracted with 25 mL ether. The organic phase was washed with 5 mL water, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was subjected to column chromatography over silica gel eluting with hexane/chloroform/ethyl acetate (50:48:2) to afford) 4-(3-bromo-1*H*-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl

20

ester as a foam, 0.46 g. Nmr (deuteriochloroform) ppm δ : 1.50 (s 9H), 3.08 (m, 4H), 3.71 (m, 4H), 6.72 (dd, 1H), 7.14 (m, 3H), 8.42 (br s, 1H).

Step 2

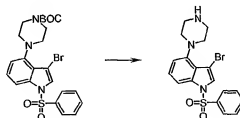
5 4-(1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-bromo-1H-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester



To a solution of 0.35 g (0.92 mmole) 4-(3-bromo-1H-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester in 10 mL benzene was added 0.106 g (1.1 mmole) sodium *t*-butoxide and 0.19 g (1.1 mmole) benzenesulfonyl chloride. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 hrs. The mixture was washed with 2 mL water, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was recrystallized from ethyl acetate/hexane to provide 0.42 g of 4-(1-benzenesulfonyl-3-bromo-1H-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester, m.p. 188-189°.

15 Step 3

1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-bromo-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole

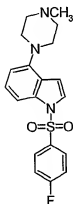


To a suspension of 0.102 g (0.2 mmole) 4-(1-benzenesulfonyl-3-bromo-1H-indol-4-yl)-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester in 3 mL ethanol was added 2 mL concentrated hydrochloric acid. The mixture was heated under reflux until all solid has dissolved. The mixture was concentrated to dryness under reduced pressure and the

residue was recrystallized from methanol/ether to provide 0.082 g of 1-benzenesulfonyl-3-bromo-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole (31), mp 304-305 °C, as hydrochloride salt.

EXAMPLE 6

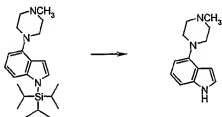
1-(4-Fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole



5

Step 1

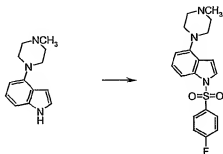
4-(4-Methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole dihydrochloride



- 10 To a solution of 0.85 g (2.28 mmole) 1-triisopropylsilyl-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole in 25 mL THF was added 2.3 mL (2.3 mmole) 1.0M tetra-n-butyl ammonium fluoride in THF. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hrs. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was partitioned between 5 mL 10% sodium carbonate and 25 mL ethyl acetate. The organic phase was
- 15 washed with 5 mL saturated sodium chloride, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The dihydrochloride salt was recrystallized from methanol/ether to provide 0.465 g of 4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole dihydrochloride, m.p. 268-269 °C (dec.).

Step 2:

1-(4-Fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole



A mixture of 0.2 g (.79 mmole) 4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole
 5 dihydrochloride, 0.2 g (1.03 mmole) 4-fluorobenzenesulfonyl chloride and 0.025 g
 tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate in 5 mL 4M sodium hydroxide and 15 mL toluene
 was stirred at room temperature for 24 hrs. The mixture was diluted with 10 mL water and
 extracted with 25 mL ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with 5 mL water, 5 mL
 saturated sodium chloride, dried (magnesium sulfate) and concentrated under reduced
 10 pressure. The hydrochloride salt was recrystallized from ethyl acetate/ether to provide
 0.208 g of 1-(4-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole (32), m.p.
 151-152 °C.

EXAMPLE 7

Composition for Oral Administration

Ingredient	% wt./wt.
Active ingredient	20.0%
Lactose	79.5%
Magnesium stearate	0.5%

15

The ingredients are mixed and dispensed into capsules containing about 100 mg
 each; one capsule would approximate a total daily dosage.

EXAMPLE 8**Composition for Oral Administration**

Ingredient	% wt./wt.
Active ingredient	20.0%
Magnesium stearate	0.5%
Crosscarmellose sodium	2.0%
Lactose	76.5%
PVP (polyvinylpyrrolidone)	1.0%

The ingredients are combined and granulated using a solvent such as methanol. The formulation is then dried and formed into tablets (containing about 20 mg of active compound) with an appropriate tablet machine.

5

EXAMPLE 9**Composition for Oral Administration**

Ingredient	Amount
Active compound	1.0 g
Fumaric acid	0.5 g
Sodium chloride	2.0 g
Methyl paraben	0.15 g
Propyl paraben	0.05 g
Granulated sugar	25.5 g
Sorbitol (70% solution)	12.85 g
Veegum K (Vanderbilt Co.)	1.0 g
Flavoring	0.035 mL
Colorings	0.5 mg
Distilled water	q.s. to 100 mL

The ingredients are mixed to form a suspension for oral administration.

EXAMPLE 10**Parenteral Formulation (IV)**

Ingredient	% wt./wt.
Active ingredient	0.25 g
Sodium Chloride	qs to make isotonic
Water for injection to	100 mL

- The active ingredient is dissolved in a portion of the water for injection. A sufficient quantity of sodium chloride is then added with stirring to make the solution isotonic. The solution is made up to weight with the remainder of the water for injection, filtered through a 0.2 micron membrane filter and packaged under sterile conditions.

EXAMPLE 11**Suppository Formulation**

Ingredient	% wt./wt.
Active ingredient	1.0%
Polyethylene glycol 1000	74.5%
Polyethylene glycol 4000	24.5%

- The ingredients are melted together and mixed on a steam bath, and poured into molds containing 2.5 g total weight.

EXAMPLE 12**Topical Formulation**

Ingredients	grams
Active compound	0.2-2
Span 60	2
Tween 60	2
Mineral oil	5
Petrolatum	10

Methyl paraben	0.15
Propyl paraben	0.05
BHA (butylated hydroxy anisole)	0.01
Water	q.s. 100

All of the ingredients, except water, are combined and heated to about 60°C with stirring. A sufficient quantity of water at about 60°C is then added with vigorous stirring to emulsify the ingredients, and water then added q.s. about 100 g.

5

EXAMPLE 13

Nasal Spray Formulations

Several aqueous suspensions containing from about 0.025-0.5 percent active compound are prepared as nasal spray formulations. The formulations optionally contain inactive ingredients such as, for example, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium
10 carboxymethylcellulose, dextrose, and the like. Hydrochloric acid may be added to adjust pH. The nasal spray formulations may be delivered via a nasal spray metered pump typically delivering about 50-100 microliters of formulation per actuation. A typical dosing schedule is 2-4 sprays every 4-12 hours.

15

EXAMPLE 14

Radioligand binding studies

The binding activity of compounds of this invention *in vitro* was determined as follows.

Duplicate determinations of ligand affinity are made by competing for binding of
20 [3H]LSD in cell membranes derived from HEK293 cells stably expressing recombinant human 5-HT₆ receptor.

All determinations are made in assay buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl, 10mM MgSO₄, 0.5 mM EDTA, 1 mM ascorbic acid, pH 7.4 at 37°C, in a 250 microliter reaction volume. Assay tubes containing [3H] LSD (5nM), competing ligand, and membrane are

incubated in a shaking water bath for 60 min. at 37°C, filtered onto Packard GF-B plates (pre-soaked with 0.3% PEI) using a Packard 96 well cell harvester and washed 3 times in ice cold 50 mM Tris-HCl. Bound [3H] LSD is determined as radioactive counts per minute using Packard TopCount.

- 5 Displacement of [3H]LSD from the binding sites was quantified by fitting concentration-binding data to a 4-parameter logistic equation:

$$\text{binding} = \text{basal} + \left(\frac{\text{Bmax} - \text{basal}}{1 + 10^{-\text{Hill}(\log[\text{ligand}] - \log \text{IC}_{50})}} \right)$$

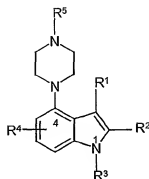
- where Hill is the Hill slope, [ligand] is the concentration of competing radioligand and IC₅₀ is the concentration of radioligand producing half-maximal specific binding of radioligand. The specific binding window is the difference between the Bmax and the basal parameters.
- 10

Proceeding as in Example 14, compounds of Formula I were tested and found to be selective 5-HT₆ antagonists.

- While the present invention has been described with reference to the specific embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation, material, composition of matter, process, process step or steps, to the objective spirit and scope of the present invention. All such modifications are intended to be within the scope of the claims appended hereto.
- 15
- 20

Claims

1. A compound comprising Formula I:



wherein:

- 5 R^1 is selected from hydrogen, halo, haloalkyl, and C_{1-6} -alkyl;

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, and C_{1-6} -alkylthio;

- R^3 is $-SO_2-Ar$, and Ar is selected from aryl and heteroaryl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, thioalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, aminocarbonyl, carbonylamino, alkylsulfonyl, haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, and sulfonylamino;
- 10

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, C_{1-6} -alkylthio, trifluoromethyl, cyano, and acyl; and

R^5 is selected from hydrogen, benzyl and C_{1-6} -alkyl;

- 15 or individual isomers, racemic or non racemic mixtures of isomers, prodrugs, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof.

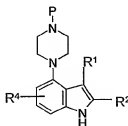
2. The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^3 is $-SO_2-Ar$ and Ar is aryl.
3. The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen or halo.
4. The compound of Claim 3, wherein R^3 is $-SO_2-Ar$ and Ar is aryl.
- 20 5. The compound of Claim 3, wherein R^2 is hydrogen.
6. The compound of Claim 5, wherein R^3 is $-SO_2-Ar$ and Ar is aryl.

7. The compound of Claim 6, wherein R³ is -SO₂-Ar and Ar is an unsubstituted phenyl or a phenyl group substituted with one or more substituents selected from C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkylthio, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, haloalkylsulfonyl and acyl.
- 5 8. The compound of Claim 5, wherein R³ is -SO₂-Ar and Ar is an unsubstituted naphthyl, or a naphthyl group substituted with one or more substituents selected from C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkylthio, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, haloalkylsulfonyl and acyl.
9. The compound of Claim 1 selected from the group:
- 10 1-(naphthalene-1-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(3,5-dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(3-bromo-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-benzenesulfonyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
4-piperazin-1-yl-1-(3-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-1H-indole;
- 15 4-piperazin-1-yl-1-(thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-1H-indole;
1-(4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(4-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(4-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-1H-indole;
1-(4-*ter*-butyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
- 20 1-(4-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole
1-(2,5-dichloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(3-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(4-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(2,5-dimethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
- 25 1-(3-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;

- 44 -

- 1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(3-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(3-bromo-5-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(5-bromo-6-chloro-pyridine-3-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
5 1-(2-fluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
NN-dimethyl-3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonamide;
1-(2-fluoro-5-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
3-(4-piperazin-1-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzonitrile;
10 1-(2-methanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-[3-(2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-(3-ethanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
4-piperazin-1-yl-1-[3-(propane-1-sulfonyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-1H-indole;
1-(1-methyl-1H-imidazole-4-sulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
15 1-(2,6-difluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-benzenesulfonyl-3-bromo-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole;
1-benzenesulfonyl-2-methyl-4-piperazin-1-yl-1H-indole; and
4-piperazin-1-yl-1-(3-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-benzenesulfonyl)-1H-indole.
10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least
20 one compound of any claim 1 to 9 in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically
acceptable carrier.
11. A compound of any claim 1 to 9 for use as a medicament.

12. Use of one or more compounds of any claim 1 to 9 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a disease state that is alleviated by 5-HT₆ agonists.
13. The use of claim 12, wherein the disease state comprises disorders of the CNS.
14. The use of claim 13, wherein the disease state comprises psychoses, schizophrenia, manic depressions, neurological disorders, memory disorders, attention deficit disorder, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease.
15. The use of claim 12, wherein the disease state comprises disorders of the gastrointestinal tract.
16. The use of claim 12, wherein the disease state is obesity.
17. A process for preparing a compound as claimed in Claim 1 which comprises treatment of a compound of formula f



Formula f

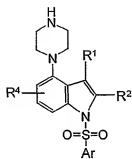
wherein P is a protective group and R¹, R² and R⁴ are as defined in Claim 1,

- 46 -

with an arylsulfonylhalide of formula $\text{Ar-SO}_2\text{-Hal}$ wherein Hal is halogen, and Ar is as defined in claim 1,

followed by deprotection,

to provide a compound of the general Formula I:



5

wherein Ar, R^1 , R^2 , and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1.

18. The invention as hereinbefore described.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 02/06201

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C07D09/08 A61P25/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C07D A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, PAJ, EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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P,X	WO 02 36562 A (AMERICAN HOME PROD) 10 May 2002 (2002-05-10) claims; examples	1-17
P,X	WO 02 32863 A (BIOVITRUM AB ;JOHANSSON GARY (SE); CALDIROLA PATRIZIA (SE); NILSSO) 25 April 2002 (2002-04-25) claims; examples	1-17
P,X	WO 02 08178 A (JOSSAN SUKHWINDER ;SAKARIASSEN KJELL S (SE); BIOVITRUM AB (SE); SV) 31 January 2002 (2002-01-31) claims; examples	1-17
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/EP 02/06201

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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